

Resolution No.: 17-859  
Introduced: July 30, 2013  
Adopted: September 10, 2013

**COUNTY COUNCIL  
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

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By: Councilmembers Riemer, Floreen, Elrich, Leventhal, and Berliner

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**SUBJECT:** Request By County Council for joint reporting on the processing time for development applications by Executive Departments, the Planning Department, and other agencies

**Background**

1. Section 209 of the County Charter states that, "The County Executive shall provide the Council with information concerning the Executive Branch that the Council may require for the exercise of its power."
2. The County Council approves the budget of the Montgomery County Planning Board and the County laws and ordinances administered by the Montgomery County Planning Board.
3. The Council has the authority to amend the County's laws and ordinances concerning zoning subdivision and the development permitting process that it has previously approved.
4. On January 20, 2012, the Executive started an initiative to make meaningful changes to the development application process by streamlining reviews and inspections. The objective was to streamline the approval process so that it is more user-friendly, understandable, reliable, consistent and efficient without compromising public participation, quality of development, environmental protection or public safety.
5. Both the Department of Permitting Services and the Planning Department, along with other departments and agencies, have committed to collaborate to make their customer service more business-friendly, and make it easier to navigate the development process and obtain building permits.
6. On September 9, 2012, Planning Staff provided the Planning Board a report on the number of plans submitted, plans approved, and review times for various application types.

7. The Department of Permitting Services publishes data on headline performance measures on the CountyStat website under the Montgomery County Performance Dashboard.
8. On September 25, 2012, the Council was briefed on the streamlining effort and the 67 cross-agency tasks identified for consideration and possible implementation.
9. The Streamlining Oversight Executive Committee, consisting of cross-agency and stakeholder representation, has been formed and is overseeing implementation of many of the items identified by the initiative.
10. The efficient processing of development approvals and permits in Montgomery County is important to the public safety, health, and welfare of County residents and to the vitality of the County's economy.
11. County and State agencies, as well as private, quasi-public entities involved in ensuring the adequacy of public facilities to serve County residents and businesses, have an important role in ensuring the timely availability of such facilities and service to existing and planned development within the County.
12. The Council desires to enhance public transparency and maintain focus on the results and implementation of the streamlining initiative opportunities to improve the development entitlement and permitting processes.
13. The Council asks to receive coordinated reports from the Executive Branch, Montgomery County Planning Department, Board of Appeals, and Office of Zoning and Administrative Hearings and outside agencies on the processing times for development entitlement applications and permits within Montgomery County.

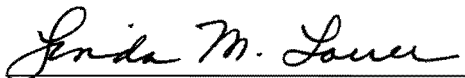
### **Action**

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

- A. The Montgomery County Council requests that the Department of Permitting Services, the Department of Transportation, the Montgomery County Planning Department, the Board of Appeals, and the Office of Zoning and Administrative Hearings develop a coordinated schedule of reports using application and permit tracking tools to measure the processing times for various development approvals and permits, broken down by agency review times, time awaiting reviews, and time with applicants/others. The reports shall reflect average times and outliers.

- B. The Montgomery County Council requests that other outside entities involved in the approval and permitting of land development and construction in Montgomery County develop a schedule of reports, using their permit tracking tools, to measure the processing times for various development approvals and permit processes, broken down by agency review times, time awaiting reviews, and time with applicants/others. The reports shall reflect average times and outliers.
- C. The entities referenced in paragraph B include: Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, State Highway Administration, Maryland Department of Transportation, Pepco, Washington Gas Light Company, Baltimore Gas and Electric Company, and Potomac Edison Co.
- D. That the reports requested be provided to the County Council the first Monday in December 2013, and every 6 months thereafter for the next 4 years.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

  
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Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council